Assessment of Water Going Waste into the Sea

222. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assessment has been made by the Government regarding the quantum of water going waste into the sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to divert this surplus water for irrigation purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (e) As per assessment made by the Central Water Commission, the country receives annual precipitation of 4000 cubic kilometres including snow fall. Of this, the seasonal rainfall (June to September) is of the order of 3000 cubic kilometres. Out of this, the average annual flow available in rivers is around 1850 cubic kilometres. Owing to the topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilisable surface water is assessed at 690 cubic kilometres in addition to the annual replenishable ground water resources which is about 450 cubic kilometres. Full utilisation of rain water is not possible due to evaporation and vegetation losses and for allowing certain amount of water to flow in the river for maintaining the river regime. The present utilisation of water (surface and ground) is about 552 cubic kilometres leaving 588 cubic kilometres of utilisable water as unutilised.

The State Governments are implementing major, medium and minor irrigation schemes for increased utilisation of utilisable water. A total of 352 major irrigation projects and 1057 medium irrigation projects have been taken up so far all over the country in addition to promotion of well irrigation and minor irrigation works to increase the utilisation of utilisable water. So far 185 major projects and 798 medium projects have been completed.

For maximising the availability of utilisable water, the Government has prepared national perspectives for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas, which comprises of two components viz. Himalayan River Development and peninsular River Development Component. National Water Development Agency is engaged in carrying out detailed studies on inter-linking of major rivers in each component. Separately, watershed development programmes have also been undertaken to conserve and utilise the rain-water where it falls.

Completion of SYL Canal

223. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the completion of SYL Canal has been abandoned;

(b) if not, whether Government have drawn any time frame for the completion of above said project which is very vital for the people of Haryana;

(c) whether Government are also aware that Haryana is suffering losses on account of non-completion of SYL Canal;

(d) whether the estimated financial loss per year due to non-completion is about Rs. 500 crores; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to compensate the farmers who are suffering on account of paucity of canal water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of Punjab has been advised to engage appropriate agency/agencies to complete the balance works of SYL Canal in Punjab at the earliest possible.